

9 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI

SUBJECT : Special Clearances for PB Members

We have re-checked the clearances of PB members and find that one principal (Ralph Spear), some Board assistants, and some observers are not cleared (see attached list). However, over half of those not cleared rarely attend meetings.

In March 1953 DDI requested clearances for PB members, and in April 1953 USCIB approved. However, in June 1953 while names were being processed through security checks, etc., the Treasury representative was changed from original name given to USCIB. This was reported to USCIB, and at that time DCI instructed that the requested clearances be withdrawn as he was averse to indoctrinating individuals with such diverse activities as those of certain of the PB members.

I don't think above precedent can be regarded as valid any longer, however, since all PB members but one and many Board Assistants (including Treasury) now cleared. Moreover, Sheldon told me that Hoegh and his three Assistant Directors all cleared at OCIM (hence why not Spear).

Hence there is a good case for clearing at a minimum Spear on the grounds that you may occasionally wish to use Special Intelligence in your briefings or in PB discussions. Since Pat Coyne tells me that Gordon Gray recently wrote DCI about keeping clearances to a minimum it might be inappropriate to go any further at this time.

If you approve, I suggest that we ourselves initiate the clearance. Alternatively, it might be preferable for us to ask Mr. Gray to request us to provide the clearances.

Once you decide on the above, we will send a memorandum to Mr. Lay informing him of the current clearance picture, and either informing him of our action or requesting him to ask us for the clearances.

/s/
R. W. KOMER